



An aerial photograph of the Hospice of the Holy Spirit in Geneva, Switzerland. The building is a large, star-shaped complex with eight long, rectangular wings radiating from a central circular courtyard. The wings are light-colored with red-tiled roofs. The central courtyard is paved and features a circular fountain. The entire complex is surrounded by a green lawn and a circular path. In the foreground, there is a small, circular, paved area with a fountain. The image is taken from a high angle, looking down at the building.

NHL Significance:

- Established by Congress in 1865 and ultimately encompassing eleven branches across the country, the NHDVS represents a policy of veterans' benefits that directly influenced the development of a national system for veteran health care in the United States. The NHDVS demonstrates the concern and commitment of the federal government for the well-being of the civilian soldier. The NHDVS evolved over five distinct phases, reflecting changes in policy regarding admissions and medical care before its 1930 incorporation into the Veterans Administration.
- Battle Mountain Branch represents phases four and five, and the evolution of the NHDVS from a primarily residential system to one offering extensive medical services to veterans. It is the only branch established as an independent medical facility treating musculoskeletal conditions and respiratory illnesses.
- The innovative design signifies the Board of Managers' commitment to high quality medical care and respect for veterans.
- Hot Springs National Cemetery (originally the Soldiers Home Cemetery) is an integral part of the Home, providing a final benefit — honored burial among comrades.

Integrity:

- The complex, which dominates the downtown Hot Springs skyline, has outstanding integrity with nearly all key buildings and the designed landscape intact.



- Relatively little major post-1930 development has occurred; new construction has been placed outside of the core historic area and down-slope, outside of primary view sheds.

Owner of Property: Federal

Acreage of Property: Approximately 53 acres

Origins of Nomination: Via an interagency agreement with the Department of Veterans Affairs Federal Preservation Office (VA FPO), and through a Cooperative Agreement with the National Council on Public History, the NPS contracted for a context study to assess significance and develop NHL nominations.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- Recognition of the NHDVS as a nationally significant resource, will help Americans better understand the commitment of the federal government to its military veterans.
- The successor of this ground-breaking federal policy in veterans care is of current national interest.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known.

Landmarks Committee Comments: Dr. Carson noted that interiors had been remodeled. He asked that information on the important interiors within the district be added to the nomination.

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: Designation. Dr. Murtagh moved, Dr. Stevens seconded; unanimous approval.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (comments received as of 10/28/10):

Jay D. Vogt, State Historic Preservation Officer, South Dakota

Glenn D. Haggstrom (on behalf of Secretary Shinseki), Executive Director for Acquisition,



Logistics, and Construction, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC (owner)

Advisory Board Recommendation: